

## THE TWO MEN.

Records of the Pugilists Corbett and Mitchell.

What They Have Done in the Pugilistic World.

### SCARS AND BRUISES

That Each Has Won on the Field of Battle.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 25.—The records of the two pugilists are a matter of greatest interest today. Briefly they are as follows:

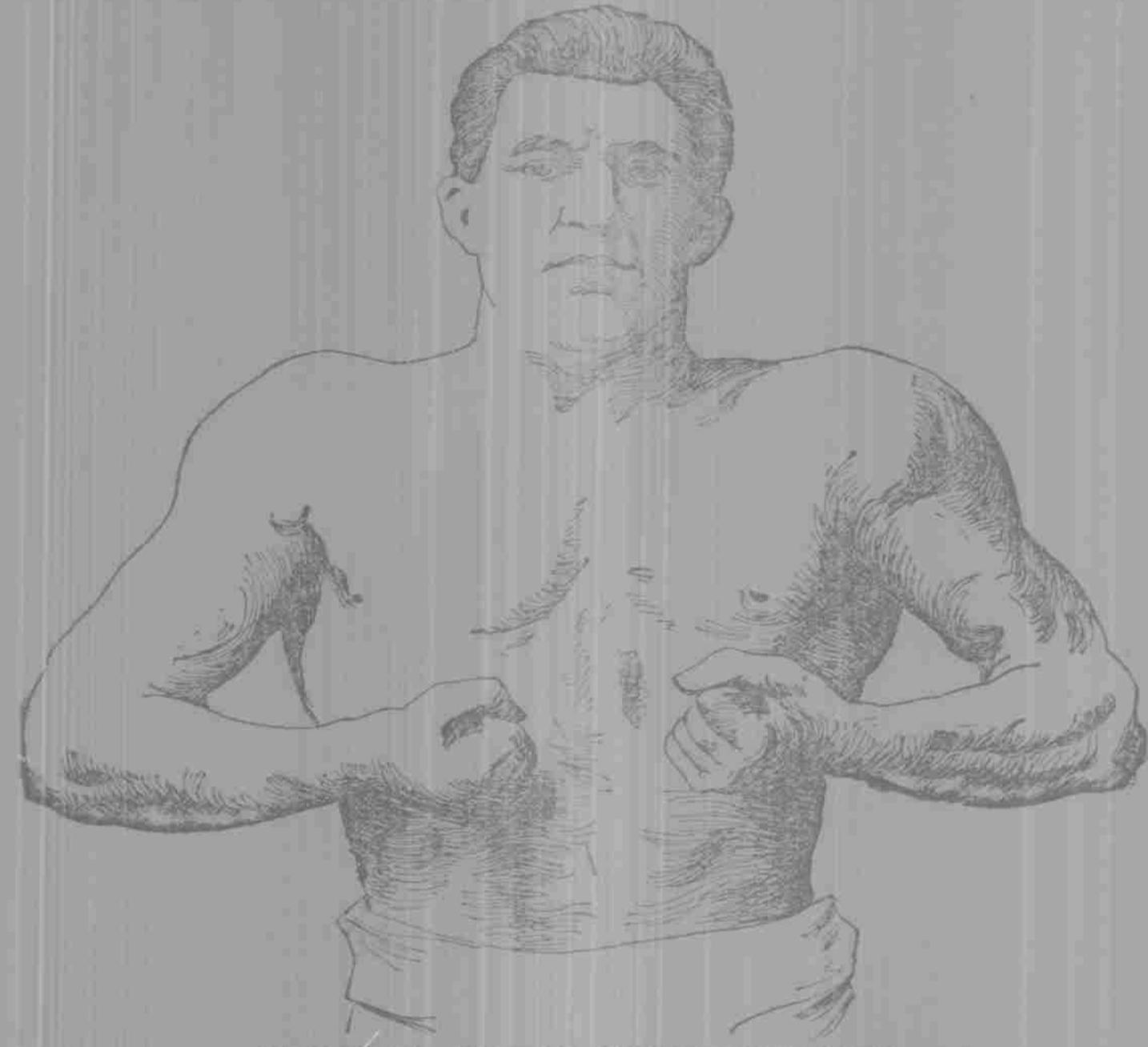
Mitchell is a product of England and Ireland, being born of Irish parents in the city of Birmingham, England. His first fight took place in January, 1874, when he defeated Bob Cunningham in fifty minutes in sight of the house where he was born. Next he defeated C. Smithers with bare fists at Wolverhampton in nineteen rounds, and a year later fought a draw at London with Billy Kennedy, then lightweight champion of England, two years afterwards. Mitchell, who weighed only 132 pounds, defeated with bare knuckles at Manchester, Billy (now) who weighed 178 pounds. In February, 1881, at Antwerp, he knocked out in four rounds, Caryadoff, the continental champion, known as the Belgian giant, who weighed 224 pounds. Then he walked from Tullies in six rounds and fought a draw with Jack Burke June 16, 1881, at Acre. This last fight was with bare knuckles for \$500 and lasted one

hour and seventeen minutes. Burksoult weighed Mitchell by fifteen pounds. These contests of Mitchell were of minor importance and it was not until 1882 that he obtained any great reputation in the pugilistic world. In that year he engaged in a middleweight competition at Chelsea and won the first prize. In December, 1882, he won Billy Madden's London championship competition, open to all England, capturing all of his heats easily. In 1883 he came to this country and first met Mike Cleary in a four round contest at the American Institute in New York city. Cleary proved to be no match for the Britisher and was nearly knocked out when the police interfered at the end of the third round. May 23, 1883, he met John L. Sullivan in Madison Square garden, New York city, for four rounds, Marquis of Queensbury rules. He succeeded in knocking Sullivan down on this occasion, but when the police jumped on the platform at the end of the third round, he was all but knocked out from the effects of Sullivan's blows and savage rushes. In October, 1883, he engaged in a contest with William Sheriff, "The Prussian," at Flushing, L. I., while the referee declared it to be a draw after six rounds had been fought. In March, 1884, he easily defeated in four rounds, Joe Denning, the Brooklyn heavyweight, and the following month fought a draw with Jake Kilrain at Boston. Next he defeated Billy Edwards, ex-champion lightweight of America, at Madison Square garden, New York city, and October 17, 1884, in a four round contest at the same place, with Dominick McGehee, the decision was given against him by the referee. Then he was matched to box Sullivan four rounds, but Sullivan was in a marvellous condition on the night the contest was to take place and it was declared a draw. June 14, 1884, at Minneapolis he fought a draw with Paty Carroll and in August of the same year defeated Ruddy Fitzgerald at Cleveland. March 14, 1885, Mitchell fought John L. Sullivan, who was then champion of the world, for \$1,000 a side at Chantilly,

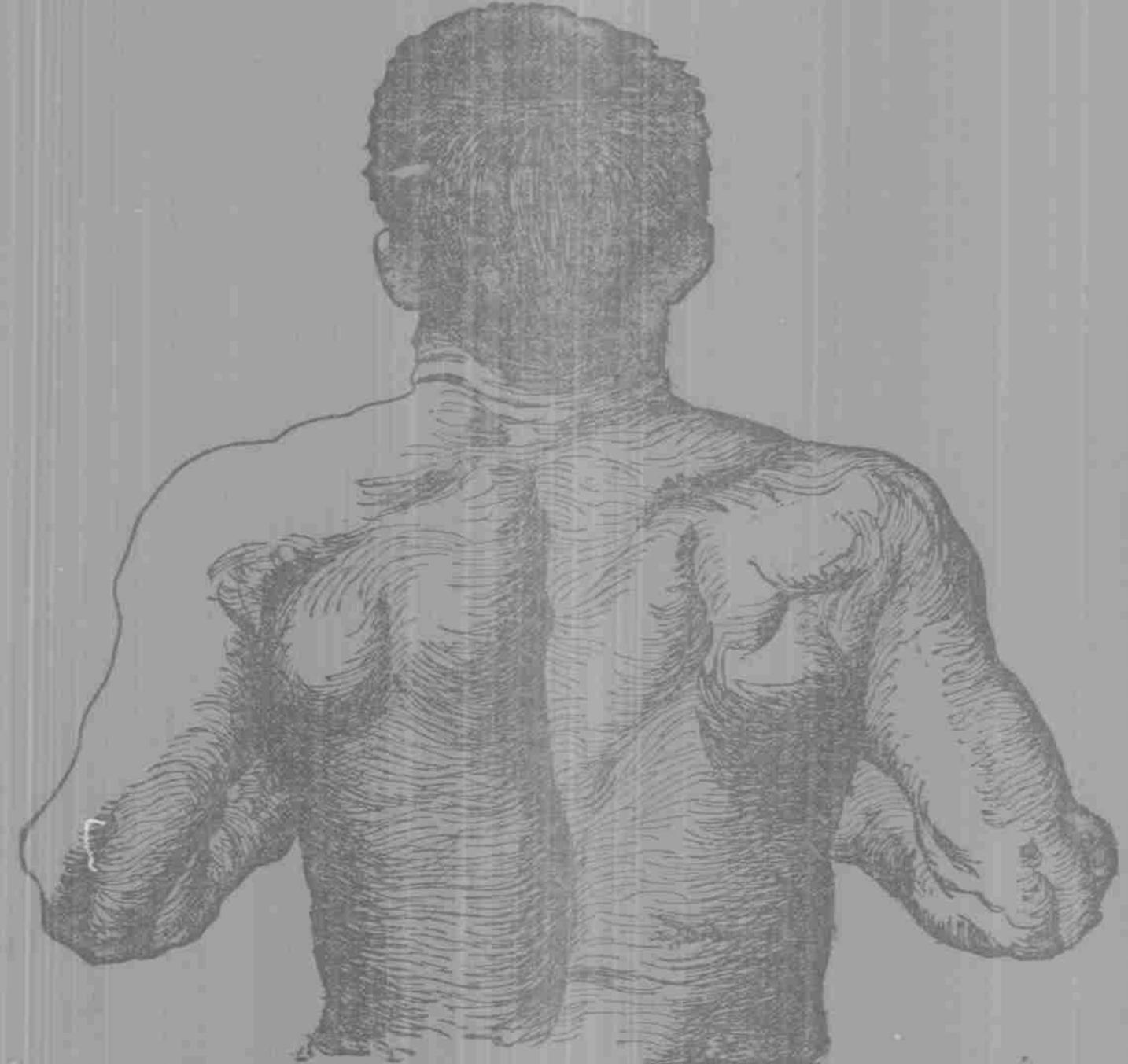
France. The fight, which has since been universally described as a running match, was under London prize ring rules. It lasted two hours and eleven minutes resulting in a draw. Mitchell's only other fight of importance was with Jack Burke, his old rival, whom he defeated in ten rounds at Chicago May 19, 1886.

Like Corbett, Corbett too is of Irish descent. He was born in San Francisco, September 1, 1860, and is now entering his 28th year. While working in a bank in that city, he early in life became a member of the Olympic Athletic club and rapidly became proficient in boxing. In 1884 he first entered the arena as a professional and began the career of victories which ended with the defeat of the world renowned Sullivan. He first defeated Dave Ebsman in two rounds and Duncan McDonald at Butte City in four rounds. He defeated Joe Choynski three times—the last time being on a barge and is remarkable from the fact that he knocked out his opponent in the 27th round, although both of his hands had been broken early in the fight. He next defeated Mike Brennan, the "Port Costa giant," in two rounds; fought an eight round draw with Jack Burke, and in rapid succession defeated Captain James C. Daily in two rounds, Frank Smith of Salt Lake City in three rounds, George Atkinson in two rounds, Frank Glover in two rounds, and Prof. Donaldson, Prof. Miller and David Campbell in four rounds each.

In February, 1890, Corbett went to New Orleans and arranged a fight with Jake Kilrain. He easily secured the verdict over him in six rounds although it had required seventy-five rounds for Sullivan to do the same trick. He next went to New York and nearly knocked Dominick McCaffery out in a four round go. His next fight was with Peter Jackson, the Australian negro, before the California Athletic club for \$10,000 a side. Jackson was heralded as a terror and odds of 3 to 1 were laid that he would win. They fought for over four hours when the contest was finally declared a draw. Jackson was suffering from a sore



CORBETT'S ARM, CHEST AND SHOULDER DEVELOPMENT.



CORBETT'S BACK AND SHOULDER DEVELOPMENT.



MITCHELL'S BACK.

leg and Corbett had several congestive chills prior to and during the fight.

Corbett's record closed with his defeat of John L. Sullivan in New Orleans a year ago last fall. Sullivan was in favor with the betting public at odds of 4 to 1, but he was easily defeated in twenty-one rounds. The victor did not receive a scratch.

#### HONEST JOHN KELLY.

How the Corbett-Mitchell Contest Gained Its Souvenir.

Few men are better known in the sporting world than "Honest" John Kelly, who has been selected as referee for the Corbett-Mitchell fight. He was born in New York and has at various times during his career played every position on the diamond, but he found after a time that his proper place was behind the bat, and it was as a "star" catcher that he first became known outside of his own hillside. But catching was hard work, and Kelly kept his eyes open for a "softer snap" as he expressed it. To be a manager was his ambition, and when he took hold of the Louisville club he thought he had reached the highest pinnacle of success. He made a good manager and paid his players regularly. At this time there was a call for honestumpires. Kelly gave up his club and returned to umpiring. He was always most successful in this capacity, and it is conceded by nearly every man who pretends to thoroughly understand the game, that John Kelly was the best umpire who ever set foot on a ball field.

He has not taken an active part in baseball for five years, having established a profitable saloon in New York, but often when there is a fine point in the National game in dispute, Kelly is appealed to for a decision.

Kelly gained his snapshot through a peculiar circumstance which occurred some years ago near Akron, O. He was out dining with a friend one bleak winter day, and they were spinning along at a lively gait in order to reach town before nightfall. The roads were bad, and when night stretched her dark canopy and enveloped them in darkness they were ten miles from their destination. The horse took fright at a big snowdrift and ran away, but Kelly and his companion escaped serious injury by jumping out. They wore in a pretty pickle then, but Kelly resolved to make the best of it. So they started towards the city, and after walking perhaps three miles came upon a small farm house. Kelly knocked at the door for some time, and finally an old man with long gray whiskers, through which the cold winds blew and whistled, came out. He carried an old fashioned lantern, and might have been mistaken for the ghost of Diogenes, except for the fact that he wore rawhide boots, which articles of apparel are of comparatively recent invention. Holding the lantern up to Kelly's good-natured face and scrutinizing his features carefully he said:

"Who be ye an' what d'ye want?"

"My name is John Kelly, and I want to hire a conveyance to get to town," replied the umpire concisely.

Corbett has trained hard and faithfully every day since he arrived in Florida, and his appearance prior to his departure from his quarters fully justified the assertion of himself and his friends that he was fit to do battle for anything within the gift of man.



CORBETT'S RIGHT ARM IN REPOSE.

"Wall, wall, wall," the old man said deliberately, "this air's a mighty funny pervadin'. I havin' never heard of ye, but bosh ye do look, honest, John Kelly, an' I'll give ye a lift."

So he harnessed up an old gray mare to a buckboard, upon receiving \$2 and Kelly's promise to return the rig the next day, allowed the strangers to drive away.

They reached Akron in safety, but the old man's gray mare died during the night. Kelly set out for the farm house next day with the dilapidated buckboard hitched on behind his stylish buggy. The old man was watching for him, but his gray mare was missing.

"Whar's my mare?" he asked.

Kelly explained that the animal had passed away, but offered to pay for it.

"That air horse has been in my family for many a year," the old man remarked, brushing away something from one corner of his eye, "but, bein' as ye've fetched the waggin back all right I'll let ye off fer 'bout seven dollars."

"Here's twenty," Kelly exclaimed, handing over a crisp government note and thanking his stars that he had got off so cheap.

The old man then carefully examined this bill, and then a smile overspread his face as he slowly remarked:

"Wall, wall, wall, but ye be honest, John Kelly."

And he has been "Honest" John Kelly ever since.

#### PUGILISTS' TRAINING QUARTERS.

Corbett at Mayport and Mitchell at Anastasia Island.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 25.—Corbett's training was done at Mayport, a small fishing station unknown to the world at large until the advent of the pugilist and his party, situated about 20 miles from Jacksonville, and seven from Pablo Beach, the summer resort of Florida.

The hamlet of Mayport is but a straggling one, possessed of a few natural attractions, but as a spot well fitted for the purpose of a pugilist in training. The Atlantic stretches out its broad bosom to the eastward, leaving a broad and unbroken beach of firm white sand between the river St. John's which courses past it to the west. Of the few cottages of which the hamlet can boast, the Corbett party secured four, and under their roofs and on the broad firm beach the champion took his daily practice at boxing, wrestling and running.

With Corbett have been Billy Delaney, his trainer, the same who made him fit to whip Sullivan, John McVey, the wrestler, and Dan Creedon, the Australian aspirant for Fitzsimmons, Prof. Jno. Donaldson, New York's expert boxing instructor, Dan Tracy, W. A. Brady, Corbett's manager, and "Wild" Egan, private secretary to the pugilist.

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Mitchell was in one sense more fortunate than his opponent in the selection of training quarters, but the place which he picked out is far from Jacksonville and consequently Mitchell has been subjected to fewer interruptions from visitors.

His quarters were located on Anastasia island, reached by the Jacksonville, Tampa & Key West railroad. His work was all done here with the help of Billy Thompson, his manager, Jim Hall and ex-Champion of England Bill Masterson and Steve Broth. Mitchell's course of training has been practically the same as that followed by other fighters preparing for an encounter, but in all of his training he has been singularly methodical and painstaking, and has evinced an intensity of purpose which has marked his career.

His time has been divided between punching the bag, boxing with Jim Hall and long runs on the beach. Barring the spraining of a muscle in his ankle Mitchell has been free from trouble during his weeks of preparation, and was in excellent train for the fray when he arrived at Jacksonville from Anastasia island.

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